

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. Nothing was known of Bulgarian uranium deposits in the past. The beginning of exploitation of uranium seems to have been started during World War II by the Germans, who opened the principal mines in the Bukhove area, 20 kilometers north-east of Sofia. The Soviets took possession of these mining zones when they occupied Bulgaria and have retained possession ever since.
2. It is not known when actual extraction work was begun or what system is used. The year 1948 may be considered to be the date of the beginning of systematic and increased exploitation. The present situation is as follows (information through June 1953):

a. Mines

- The only area producing at present is the area on the sides of Mount Goten in the Bukhove zone (see Appendix, pages 4 and 5).
- The direction and control of production is completely in the hands of the Soviets.
- The direction and central offices are located on Alabin Street in Sofia (50 or 60 of the men and women are Soviets).

b. Ores

- It appears certain that the raw ore extracted contains a large percentage of uranium.
- After being cleaned, broken up, and washed, the ores are divided into three categories according to the percentage of radioactive material contained.
- Ores of the first and second categories are sealed in boxes after being washed.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC	X	OSI	X		
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- Ores of the third category are selected in a plant at Bukhovo.
- All ores are sent to the Yana railroad station for shipment to the USSR via the port of Varna.

c. Production

- Reports of the daily production varies from a minimum of 10 tons to a maximum of 100 tons. This would then allegedly mean an annual production varying from 3,000 to 30,000 tons.
- The impossibility of establishing a good estimate of the average production is attributed to the newness of the industry, the lack of details for a comparative evaluation, and the fact that all information concerning the mining of uranium is protected with the most jealous secrecy.

d. Research

- Careful prospecting for new deposits is made and directed by Soviets in the eastern Rhodope area around Kurdzhali (N 41-39, E 25-21), Momchilgrad (N 41-52, E 25-23), and Asenovgrad (N 41-59, E 24-52).
- Regular exploitation has not been started in these areas.

The Bukhovo Uranium Mines

3. The Bukhovo uranium area on the slopes of Mount Gonen comprises an area of approximately 10 square kilometers, including the following villages:
 - a. Bukhovo (N 42-46, E 23-34);
 - b. Makotsevo (sic--Makotsevo is located at N 42-42, E 23-48, whereas the map in Appendix, pages 4 and 5, locates Makotsevo at about N 42-49, E 23-22, which is the Kurilo area);
 - c. Krasnikovtsi (N 42-47, E 23-30);
 - d. Seslavtsi (N 42-47, E 23-31);
 - e. "Eslo" or "Yeslo" (sic);
 - f. Butunets (N 42-44, E 23-31); and
 - g. Elashnitsa (N 42-45, E 23-38).
4. In 1951, there were 55 pits or "Stolni" (exploitation zones). At present, with the opening of new areas, there are 90 pits, divided into four sections, as follows:
 - a. Devoti Septemvri (9 September);
 - b. Pürvi May (1 May);
 - c. Seslavtsi (name of the area); and
 - d. Gonen (name of the area).

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5. The personnel force presumably consists of 600 Trudovaks, 160 miners, 400 workers engaged in various jobs, and 60 Soviets who are employed in directive capacities.
6. There are 18 wooden barracks in the mining zone. In 1951, a village with about 100 small houses for workers and technicians was built up between Iana and Bukhovo. Roads and other buildings are presently under construction in this area. A plant for processing the third category of ore has allegedly been built at Bukhovo.
7. Three hundred soldiers under the direction of Soviets are employed as guards. The mining area is enclosed with a barbed wire fence and access into the area is prohibited.

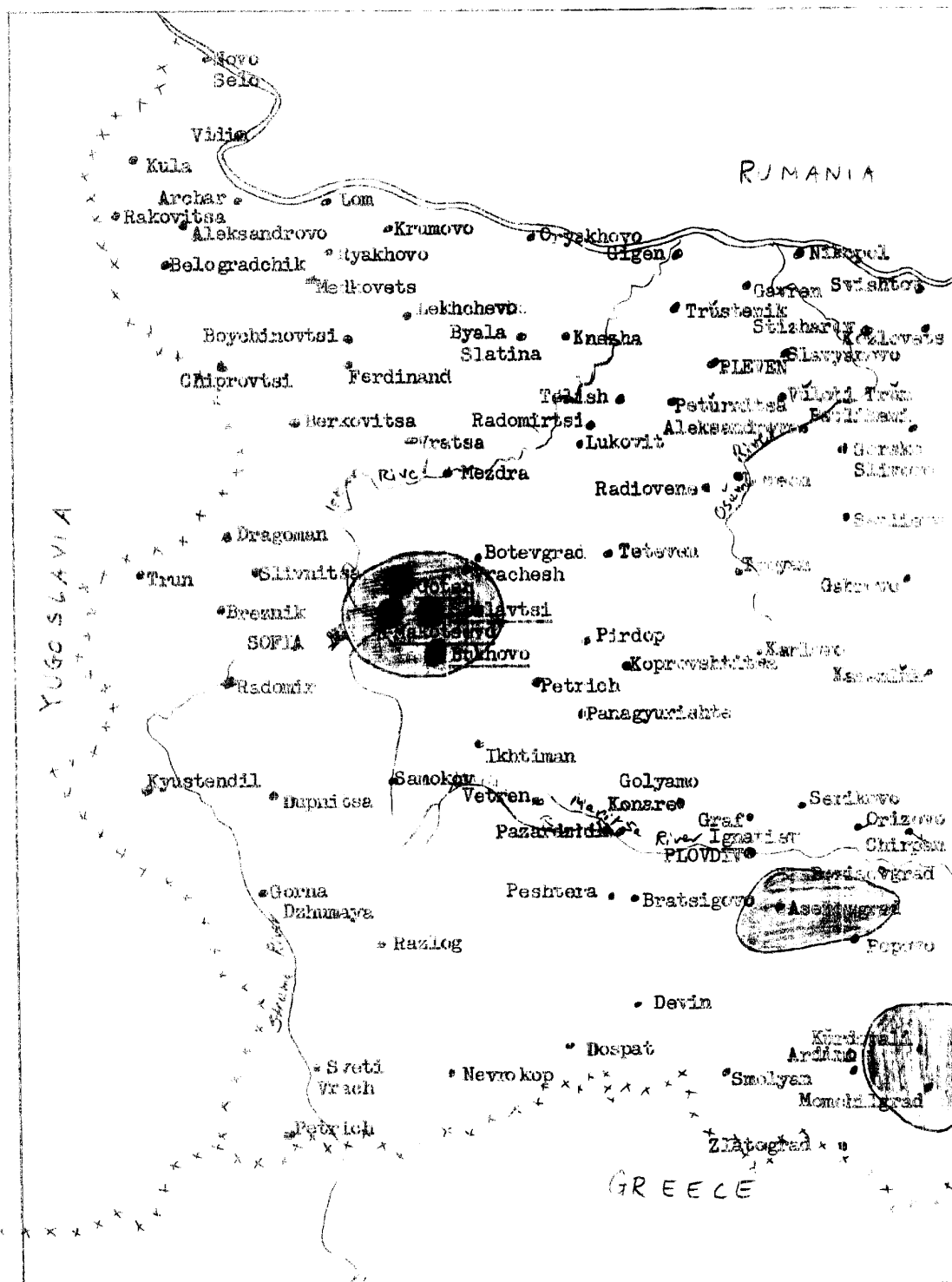
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APPENDIX

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Bulgarian Uranium Resources -- December 1953

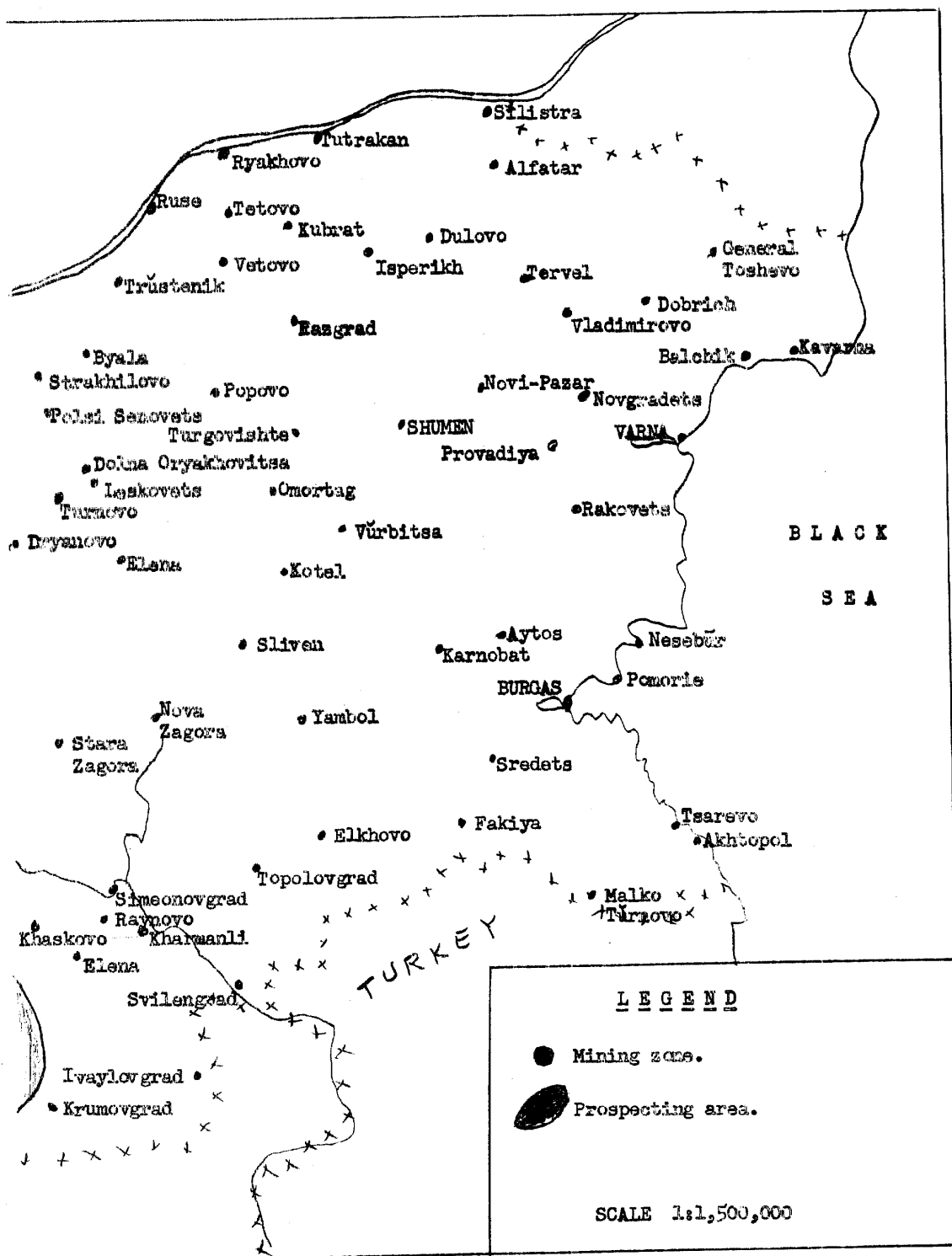
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APPENDIX (Continued)

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